

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Brandi Stewart-Wood, Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Phone: 360-567-3170

### **Fort Vancouver High School Sophomore Wins SEMI High Tech U Scholarship**

March 30, 2010 - Daysha Baker, a sophomore from Fort Vancouver High School, won the highest honor given at SEMI High Tech University — a \$1000 scholarship. Ms. Baker was one of 34 young women representing 15 Oregon and Southwest Washington high schools participating in the three-day, High Tech U program held at Intel, SolarWorld, and Portland Community College (PCC). Selected by her peers, Ms. Baker was recognized for demonstration of the desired behaviors, positive attitude, and interest and aptitude for a high tech position, along with the ability to be a team player.

High Tech U is an industry-driven math and science-based career exploration program, produced and presented by the SEMI Foundation in partnership with the sponsoring companies' employees. High Tech U aims to connect sophomores and juniors who may have unrealized potential in math and science to the array of careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Students conduct hands-on experiments in statistics, mathematics, electronics, nanotechnology, solar and alternative energy technologies, specific technology aspects of the sponsoring business, and problem solving. Students also attend sessions on educational pathways and career planning and participate in mock interviews with company representatives.

As part of the mock job interview session at High Tech U, Brian Janecek, Senior Recruiter at SolarWorld, interviewed another Fort Vancouver sophomore Ibette Valle. "Ibette was so impressive," says Janecek. "She was poised, confident and able to respond to my questions thoughtfully, clearly and concisely. It was one of the best interviews I've ever conducted, including those I've held with adult job seekers — I'd hire her in a heartbeat!"

Janecek noted the importance of programs like SEMI High Tech U that encourage high school students, especially girls like Daysha and Ibette, to study math and science, and think about careers in high tech. "While we are seeing more females with math and science backgrounds entering the workforce, they are still under-represented in the sciences. It's important to introduce girls to the possibility of high tech careers early in their education."

The Intel, SolarWorld, Applied Materials, and PCC program marked High Tech U's 100<sup>th</sup> program. High Tech U programs have been delivered to more than 3000 students and 500 teachers around the world.

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The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) partners with the SEMI Foundation to bring the High Tech U program to SW Washington and its students. Last year, SWWDC partnered with Underwriters Laboratories and Clark College to bring the program to Clark County. This year, SWWDC is partnering with Norpac, Weyerhaeuser, and Lower Columbia College in Longview to bring the program to 40 Cowlitz County students. SWWDC is currently working with local Clark County companies to identify sponsors for a program for 40 Clark County students in June. Companies interested in co-sponsoring the Clark Country program should contact Brandi Stewart-Wood at 360-567-3170.

### **About the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council**

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. Working with educational and industry partners, the SWWDC also helps build the pipeline of the next generation of skilled workers in STEM occupations. For more information, visit [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

### **About SEMI High Tech U**

SEMI is the global industry association serving the manufacturing supply chains for the microelectronic, display and photovoltaic industries. SEMI member companies are the engine of the future, enabling smarter, faster and more economical products that improve our lives. Since 1970, SEMI has been committed to helping members grow more profitably, create new markets and meet common industry challenges. SEMI maintains offices in Bangalore, Beijing, Brussels, Hsinchu, Moscow, San Jose, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.semi.org](http://www.semi.org).

The SEMI Foundation is committed to developing the future workforce for high technology employers. Its High Tech U program offers industry-based learning modules that are engaging, exciting, fun, and relevant—relevant to both students and industry sponsors. The program channels this excitement by incorporating learning modules that introduce students to leading-edge technologies that are being driven by the semiconductor industry—technologies such as nanotechnology, MEMS and solar.

Since SEMI High Tech U began in 2001, 100 programs have been delivered to 3000 students and 500 teachers around the world with amazing results. One-hundred percent of participating students report that HTU had a positive influence on them; 98 percent

students report a new found confidence in their own abilities; 88 percent report that HTU influenced their educational choices; 71 percent of participants indicate that they now want to want to pursue a career in engineering as a result of their High Tech U experience; and 62 percent say that they take more math, science and tech courses than originally planned. For more information about the SEMI Foundation and High Tech U visit: [www.semi.org/en/About/SEMIFoundation/index.htm](http://www.semi.org/en/About/SEMIFoundation/index.htm).



***From left to right:***

Southwest Washington High Tech U participants: Marisol Garcia-Quiroz, Fort Vancouver High School; Jessica Rangel, Fort Vancouver High School; Daysha Baker, Fort Vancouver High School (scholarship winner); Ibette Valle, Fort Vancouver High School; Heather Grove, Hudson's Bay High School. Not pictured: Sydney Fry, Union High School.